Shifting of Salt Commissioner's Office to Gujarat

1786. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact tht 70% of salt is produced in Gujarat and supplied throughout the country;

(b) whether there is a demand for shifting the Salt Commissioner's office to Gujarat in order to see the production and supply of salt in the State;

(c) whether the arrangement for the supply of wagons for the supply of salt is adequate in Gujarat as per the demand; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take towards early shifting of Salt Commissioner's Office in Gujarat to oversee the railway wagon allotment as per the demand?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Gujarat contributes about 70% of the total salt produced in the country.

(b) There had been a consistent demand from the Govenment of Gujarat, Salt Manufacturers' Associations of Gujarat, etc. for shifting the Salt Commissioner's Headquarters Office to Gujarat.

(c) Yes, Sir. At present there has been adequate supply of wagons for movement of salt from Gujarat.

(d) The Government had ordered for shifting of the Salt Commissioner's Headquarters Office to Gandhinagar (Gujarat) in October, 1994. However, the All India Salt Department Employees' Union filed a Writ Petition in th» Rajasthan High Court against the said orders and obtained a stay. The matter is now pending before the Hon'ble High Court and is, therefore, subjudice.

Non-availability of wheat and rice in the fair price shops in Delhi

1787. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat and rice have not been available with the Fair Price Shops in Delhi for the card holders under the Public Distribution Scheme as has been reported i the Dainik Jagaran dated 16.11.96;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) action taken by Government to ensure the availability of good quality wheat and rice on the Fair Price Shops in Delhi and elsewhere in the country without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that except for some instances of delayed supply, it is not correct to say that wheat and rice are not available in Fair Price Shops in Delhi.

(c) Government has directed FCI to ensure that there is no delay in supply of wheat and rice for which price is deposited by Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation. The allocaitons to States and UTs for the PDS and RPDS in the whole country have been increased from 20.96 likh Metric Tonnes (12.58 lakh Metric Tonnes of Rice and 8.38 lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat) in December, 96 to about 21.29 lakh Metric Tonnes (12.68 lakh Metric Tonnes of rice and 8.61 lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat) in January, 97. Foodgrains issued under the Public Distribution System from Central Pool are to strictly conform to the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.